

REMARKS

These remarks are made responsive to the non-final office action mailed January 4, 2006.

Information Disclosure Statement

An information disclosure statement accompanies this response.

Claims

Claim 3-10, 13, 15-16, 18, 24-30 and 32 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-2, 11-12, 14, 17, 19-23 and 31 have been cancelled. Claims 3-5, 13, 15-16, 18, and 32 have been amended. Claims 6-10 and 24-30 remain unamended.

The non-final office action indicated that claims 24-30 were allowed.

The action also indicated claims 3-4, 12-13, 15-16, 18, 20-21, 23 and 32 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 3 and 4 each have been amended to be in independent form to include all of the limitations of cancelled claims 1 and 2 from which each formerly depended. Claim 5 has been amended to include the limitations of now cancelled claims 11 and 12. Claim 13 has been amended to be in independent form including the limitations of claim 5 and now cancelled claim 11 from which it formerly depended. Claims 15-16 and 18 each have each been amended to be in independent form to include all of the limitations of now cancelled claim 14 from which each formerly depended. Claims 20-21 and 23 were cancelled. Claim 32 has been amended to be in independent form including the limitations of now cancelled claim 31 from which it formerly depended.

Conclusion

In light of the amendments presented above, pending claims 3-10, 13, 15-16, 18, 24-30 and 32 as amended are in condition for allowance, and applicant respectfully requests a notice of allowance.

Date: *May 17, 2006*

Respectfully Submitted on Behalf of Applicants

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